

The General Brock September Newsletter

Welcome back everyone!

I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits. As we gear up for another exciting school year, I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all our returning students and families, as well as those who are joining our Bulldog family for the first time.

The Bulldog spirit runs strong in our hallways, classrooms, and fields, and we can't wait to see it shine brightly once again this year. With unwavering determination and resilience, our students have overcome numerous challenges, and we are so proud of each and every one of them.

Our mascot, the Bulldog, embodies qualities that we hold dear at General Brock. Bulldogs are known for their tenacity, loyalty, and courage. They never back down from a challenge. Instead, they dig in and give their all. That's precisely the attitude we encourage in our students – to approach every task with grit and determination, knowing that they have a supportive school community behind them every step of the way.

This school year promises to be filled with exciting opportunities for growth, learning, and achievement. Our dedicated staff has been hard at work preparing innovative lessons, engaging extracurricular activities, and a nurturing environment that fosters a love of learning.

We continue to register students throughout the school year and again during these past several weeks. If we need to re-organize our school due to enrolment and Ministry guidelines, we will be sure to inform you if your child(ren) are impacted. This typically takes place during the third week of September.

Families will be contacted prior to the first day of school through 'School Messenger' and on our EDSBY page to explain first day entry routines. Additionally, please use our 'EDSBY Announcement Group' for up to date events and information. If you don't receive a message, please give us a call at 519-254-2571 to update your information. Communication is key to ensure your child has a successful school start.

Please be sure to keep the communication lines open which can be as simple as an EDSBY message or a telephone call directly to your child's teacher. This newsletter will be available on EDSBY and on our web page at publicboard.ca under the school tab. Our newsletter contains important information about future school activities and upcoming dates and highlights the previous month's events.

If you are interested in being a part of our Parent Council, we will be holding elections on - Wednesday, October 4th at 3:30. This will also be the same night as our 'Meet the Staff' evening that runs from 3:00-5:00.

We would also encourage families to review our [Student and Family/Caregiver Handbook](#) available on

our school website prior to the first day of school.

Please plan to give yourselves extra time before and after school as construction begins on Sandwich street beginning September 5th and is expected to last a couple of months.

We're looking forward to a fantastic school year ahead, filled with growth, achievement, and memorable moments. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to our dedicated staff.

Remember, at General Brock, we're all part of the Bulldog family, and together, we can achieve greatness. Let's embrace the challenges ahead with the same Bulldog tenacity that defines us.

Wishing you a wonderful start to the school year!

At Brock - 'We care about each other!'

Sincerely,

Mr. Callow and Mrs. Dahbour

Important Dates

September 5	First day for students in grades 1-8
September 11	First day for students in Kindergarten
September 12, 19, 26	Pizza days continue - \$3/slice or two slices for \$5 - all Halal
September 14, 21, 28	Frozen Yogurt returns - \$3/one or two for \$5
September 20	Breakfast Program begins – 8:10 in the cafeteria
September 22	PA Day - No school for students
September 27	Twoonies for Terry Walk at General Brock
September 29	Orange shirt day or wear school colours

Welcome New Staff

Please join me in welcoming our incoming vice principal, Ms. Dahbour. She comes to us with much world-wide experience. We also welcome, Ms. Gimesi and Ms. Carter, both teaching Kindergarten. We also welcome, Ms. Brush, a Developmental Services Worker back to Brock. For a full list of our staff, please click on this link – [General Brock Staff 2023](#).

Home and School Communication

Teachers communicate in a variety of ways: by telephone, using student agendas, EDSBY, Twitter, and through the web as well as class newsletters.

During the day, our staff is busy attending to the needs of students. If you wish to contact your child's teacher, we encourage you to leave them a voicemail with specific instructions on how, and when the best time to call back would be. Staff typically respond within 48 hours. If the issue is urgent, please call our office staff and provide details of your concern. Our office staff will be happy to assist.

If you have a concern, please never hesitate to call the school. The vast majority of concerns occur because of miscommunication and can be resolved with a simple phone call to the teacher. We want to ensure that our families have a positive experience at General Brock.

We are proud of our students and the work that we do to support them. We deeply appreciate your support and know that we are here to support our students and parents.

School Safety

We take pride in ensuring that our students are safe at General Brock! As part of our "Safe Welcome", we ask for your help each day so that we can always keep our students safe.

All schools in Ontario are required to keep their doors locked during the school day. For safety reasons, only our students and staff are permitted in the school and on the playground. **If you are dropping off items, please label the items and call the office / use the buzzer. A staff member will be available to assist.**

At the end of the day, students who walk home and students who are being picked up will be dismissed out their designated doors. Parents may alternatively wish to meet their children. Please be patient as new routines are being established. For students in Kindergarten and siblings, there will be an optional early pick-up that begins at 2:45 each day when our Kindergarten students are participating in outdoor play. If your child is absent, please ensure that you call the school before 8:35 am. If your child needs to leave the school before the end of the day, please ensure that you send a note to your child's teacher or phone the school office—we will greet you at the front doors with your child/ren. The **number one** way you can help decrease the amount of traffic issues is to consider having your child walk to school or take the bus. ***Do not park in the bus bay or parking lot. These areas are off limits for parking to ensure student safety before and after school.*** Please try to avoid contacting the school after 2:30 pm with changes in dismissal arrangements—these create a great deal of confusion which can delay everyone. Please ensure that your child, and their teacher, know what your end of day plans are. With your help,

we know that we can create an even safer environment for our students!

Bell Times

Start time is 8:35 a.m.

Breakfast program begins at 8:10

Student arrival 8:20—8:35 a.m.

10:15 —10:55a.m. First Nutrition Break

12:35 —1:15 p.m. Second Nutrition Break

End of day dismissal is 2:55 p.m.

EDSBY for Parents

What are the benefits of using EDSBY?

EDSBY is a great way to support your child at school. Many of our teachers will communicate and assign work through EDSBY.

Can I schedule an absence for my child using EDSBY?

Yes, using EDSBY you can schedule an absence for your child.

How will I know that I have been invited to EDSBY?

You will receive a response to the email address you have provided the school for each child you have in the school where parents have been invited.

What do I do if I forget my password? Where do I get help or support on how to use EDSBY?

On the EDSBY login screen there is a link for 'Can't Log In' - Click on this and enter your email address that you used when you registered for EDSBY. An email will be sent with instructions to follow. Help is available at <http://www.EDSBY.com/help/parents/>

Technology

Technology has opened the door to many wonderful learning opportunities and has enhanced our educational experiences which has helped students to become responsible digital citizens. These devices can also be an area of concern. Due to the many privacy issues and the potential inappropriate use of these items, students are not to use devices at school without permission from the school and home. **In the event of an emergency, students may use the office phone or parents/caregivers can contact their child through the office.** For students whose parents wish them to carry a mobile phone, the phone is to be kept stored in a safe place while at school. **The school will not be responsible for any lost or stolen**

electronic devices.

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

“The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit provides a number of health services to school children in Windsor and Essex County. Many of these services are provided according to provincial law. If, for any reason, you do not wish your child to be involved in health education or health services, please inform the school principal in writing as soon as possible.”

Allergies

We have many students and staff who have life-threatening allergies to **peas, eggs, latex, nuts, tree nuts and peanuts. We are also a ‘fragrance free zone’ and do not permit perfume, cologne or other fragrances.** When exposed to these substances, allergic children can become ‘anaphylactic’ meaning that a medical emergency may become imminent. These reactions can be fatal. For some students, these foods/scents must be ingested to result in a reaction while the allergy is ‘airborne’ which means that the smell alone can result in anaphylaxis. We deeply appreciate your support in doing your best to avoid sending these food items to school. Please know staff are trained annually in how to respond to students with anaphylaxis.

Student Accident Insurance

The Greater Essex County District School Board does not cover accident insurance for students. However, our school board is offering you the opportunity to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada program. Injuries can result in substantial expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group insurance plans. As a student, parent or guardian, you become responsible for these expenses. Insure my Kids Accident Insurance provides protection against unexpected costs arising from accidental injuries. The program is especially valuable for families who:

- Do not have medical or dental plans,
- Have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- Have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

Insure my Kids Accident Insurance has a selection of plans to suit most budgets. Benefits include cover for:

- The full school year (September to September), 24 hours a day, while at home and school;

- Expenses that are often limited or not covered by private or group insurance plans, or Provincial Health Insurance Plans, such as ambulance, private tutoring, counselling, and much more;
- Injury related dental treatment (paid in the 10 years after injury).

Depending on the plan selected, insurance premiums for children are approximately \$20.00 to \$40.00.

A discount may be available for families with 3 or more children.

For more information or to apply online, please visit [Insure My Kids](#) or speak with an Insure my Kids Client Service Administrator at 1-800-463-5437.